

depends from claim 5 which now should be allowable.

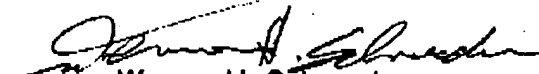
27) Claims 6 -12, 14 - 16, 20, 13 and 22 - 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Jensen in view of Briggs and further in view of Shelton. The examiner now is using three references to reject the above noted claims. This type of rejection has been frowned on by the old CCPA and the now CAFC. The examiner is using a second reference to modify a first reference and is then using a third reference to modify the modification. However, claim 6 is dependent from claim 5 which has been amended and should now be allowable.

28). The examiner again takes the hip beam of Jensen, cuts it into two pieces at the point where the hip beam goes through the eye and then inserts the cut pieces into a bracket. As pointed out above, Jensen teaches away from such a modification because the disclosed structure must stay collapsible (Fig. 5) which is not possible anymore after the proposed modification. Claim 22 has been amended to recite that the play devices are located on the platform. This removes Briggs from any teaching and the claim should be allowable.

29) and (30). The comments with regard to claims 12 and 25 and claims 32 - 44 have been noted. In view of the amendments made in the claims from which these claims depend, they should be allowable together with these independent claims.

31) It is believed that all objections and rejections made in the examiner's detailed action have been dealt ^{with} and have been answered.

In view of all of the above, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the objections and rejections made and to pass this application to an early notice of allowance.


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Reg. No. 36,387

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List of amended Claims 1 - 50

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A children's play structure comprising: a plurality of support columns;

a platform coupled to and supported by said plurality of said support columns, said platform defining an outer edge;

a plurality children's play devices ~~associated with~~ located on said platform, said platform and said plurality of children's play devices cooperating to define a play area, and

a sunshade canopy supported ~~support~~ by said plurality of said columns, said ~~sunshine~~ sunshade canopy extending beyond said outer edge to shade said play area and covering said platform.

6. (original) The children's play structure of claim 5, wherein said sunshade canopy further comprises:

a plurality of beams for supporting said canopy;

a plurality of connector brackets for mounting said plurality of beams to said plurality of support columns, respectively.

7.(currently amended) The children's play structure as recited in claim 6, wherein said plurality of beams are secured to said plurality of connector brackets such that the plurality of beams are angled relative to said plurality of support columns and relative to a horizontal plane.

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8.(original) The children's play structure as recited in claim 6, wherein said plurality of beams comprise a plurality of cantilever beams coupled to said plurality of said brackets, respectively, and extending generally downwardly therefrom.

9.(original) The children's play structure as recited in claim 7, wherein said plurality of beams comprise a plurality of cantilever beams coupled to said plurality of said brackets, respectively, and extending generally downwardly therefrom.

10.(original) The children's play structure as recited in claim 6, wherein said plurality of beams comprise a plurality of hip beams coupled to said plurality of brackets and extend generally upwardly therefrom.

11.(original) The children's play structure as recited in claim 8, wherein said plurality of beams comprise a plurality of hip beams coupled to said plurality of brackets, respectively, and extending generally upwardly therefrom.

12.(currently amended) The children's play structure of claim 6, wherein said plurality of beams comprise a first plurality of beams comprising ends that converge at a first position and a second plurality of beams comprising ends that converge at a second position, said plurality of beams further comprising include a ridge beam extending between said first and said second positions.

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13.(currently amended) A sunshade canopy system for mounting over and onto a children's play structure comprising a plurality of support columns, a platform coupled to and supported by said plurality of support columns, said platform defining an outer edge, a plurality of children's play device ~~associated with~~ located on said platform and extending generally away from the outer edge and cooperating with said platform to define a play area, said sunshade canopy system comprising:

a plurality of connector brackets for mounting to said plurality of support columns, respectively;

a plurality of beams coupled to said plurality of connector brackets; and

a canopy mounted on said plurality of beams to provide shade to said play area, wherein said canopy has a first perimeter and said play area has a second perimeter, wherein further said first perimeter extends beyond said second perimeter to increase the shading area above said second perimeter.

14.(currently amended) The children's play structure as recited in claim [5] ~~6~~, wherein said plurality of connector brackets are permanently secured to said plurality of beams.

15.(currently amended) The children's play structure as recited in claim [5] ~~6~~, wherein each of said plurality of connector brackets comprises a vertical member for mounting on one of said plurality of said vertical support columns and an angled member for securing to said plurality of beams.

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16.(currently amended) The children's play structure of claim [5] 6, wherein said plurality of connector brackets comprises a vertical member for mounting on one of said plurality of vertical support columns and an angled member for coupling a plurality of said plurality of beams together such that said plurality of beams are situated at an angle relative to said plurality of said vertical support columns when said plurality of connector brackets are mounted on said vertical support columns and said plurality of beams are connected thereto.

17.(currently amended) The children's play structure of claim [1] 16, wherein said vertical member comprises a rod for receiving said ends.

18.(currently amended) The children's play structure of claim 17, wherein said rod comprising ends that are tubular and dimensioned to mate with and join two of said plurality of beams together.

19.(original) The children's play structure of claim 17, wherein said rod comprises ends that are tubular and dimensioned to mate with and join two of said plurality of beams together,

20.(currently amended) The children's play structure of claim [5] 6, wherein said plurality of beams comprises includes at least one cantilever beam and at least one hip beam;

at least one of said plurality of said connector brackets comprising a coupling for securing an end of said at least one hip beam, said at least one of said plurality of connector brackets causing said at least one hip beam and said at least one cantilever beam to combine at an angle.

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21.(original) The children's play structure of claim 5, wherein said angle is about 22 degrees.

22.(currently amended) A sunshade canopy system for mounting onto a children's play structure comprising a plurality of support columns, a platform coupled to and supported by said plurality of said support columns, said platform defining an outer edge; a plurality of children's play devices ~~associated with~~ located on said platform and extending generally away from the outer edge and cooperating with said platform to define a play area; said ~~sunshine~~ sunshade canopy system comprising: a plurality of connector brackets for mounting to said plurality of support columns, respectively;

a plurality of beams coupled to said plurality of connector brackets and a canopy mounted on said plurality of beams to provide shade to said play area.

23.(original) The sunshade canopy system of claim 22, wherein when said plurality of beams are detachably secured to said plurality of connector brackets, said plurality of beams are angled relative to said plurality of said vertical support columns.

24.(currently amended) The sunshade canopy system of claim 22, wherein said plurality of beams ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of cantilever beams coupled to said plurality of connector brackets, respectively, and extending generally downwardly therefrom and a plurality of hip beams coupled to said plurality of brackets, respectively, and extending generally upwardly therefrom.

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25.(currently amended) The sunshade canopy system of claim 23, wherein said plurality of beams ~~comprises~~ includes a first plurality of beams comprising ends that converge to a first joint at a first position and a second plurality of beams that converge to a second joint at a second position, said plurality of beams further ~~comprising~~ include a ridge beam extending between said first position and said second position.

26.(original) The sunshade canopy system of claim 22, wherein said plurality of connector brackets are permanently secured to said plurality of beams.

27.(currently amended) The sunshade canopy system of claim 22, wherein each of said plurality of connector brackets comprises a vertical member for mounting on one of said plurality of vertical support columns and an angled member for coupling a plurality of said plurality of beams together such that said plurality of beams are situated at an angle relative to said plurality of vertical support columns and relative to a horizontal plane when said plurality of connectors are mounted on said plurality of vertical support columns and said plurality of beams are secured thereto.

28.(currently amended) The sunshade canopy system of claim 27, wherein said vertical member ~~comprises~~ includes a rod for receiving said ends.

29.(currently amended) The sunshade canopy system of claim 28, wherein said rod ~~comprises~~ includes ends that are tubular and dimensioned to mate with and join two of said plurality of beams together.

30.(currently amended) The sunshade canopy system of claim 22, wherein said plurality of beams ~~emprise~~ include at least one cantilever beam and one hip beam;

at least one of said plurality of connector brackets comprising a coupling for securing an end of said at least cantilever beam to an end of said at least one hip beam, said at least one of said plurality of connector brackets causing said at least one cantilever beam and said at least one cantilever beam to be substantially coaxial and situated at an angle relative to said vertical support column and relative to a horizontal plane to which said at least of said plurality connector bracket is mounted.

31.(original) The sunshade canopy system of claim 24, wherein said angle is about 22 degrees.

32.(currently amended) A method for shading a play area defined by a plurality of vertical support columns having a platform coupled thereto and a plurality of play devices ~~adjacent to~~ on said platform that cooperate to define a play area, comprising the steps of:

situating a plurality of connector brackets onto said plurality of said vertical support columns, respectively;

securing a plurality of beams to said plurality of connector brackets and situating a canopy on said plurality of beams, said plurality of beams supporting said canopy at an angle relative to a horizontal plane ~~and said canopy being angled~~ and said canopy being ~~dimensional~~ dimensioned to provide shade to and to some extent beyond said play area during sunshine.

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33.(original) The method of claim 32 further including the steps of:

providing a plurality of connector brackets, each comprising an angled member;

securing said plurality of beams to said angled member, thereby causing said plurality of beams to become angled relative to said plurality of vertical support columns.

34.(original) The method of claim 33 further including the steps of:

providing a plurality of beams comprising a plurality of cantilever beams and a plurality of hip beams;

coupling first ends of said plurality of cantilever beams to said plurality of connector brackets;

coupling first ends of said plurality of hip beams to said plurality of connector brackets.

35.(original) The method of claim 32 further including the steps of:

permanently securing said plurality of connector brackets to said plurality of vertical support columns and said plurality of hip beams and said plurality of cantilever beams to said plurality of said connector brackets.

36.(original) The method of claim 32, wherein each of said plurality of connector brackets includes a vertical member for coupling to one of said vertical support columns and an angled member for coupling a plurality of said plurality of beams together, said method further including the step of:

detachably mounting said vertical member onto one of said plurality of vertical support columns.

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37.(original) The method of claim 36, wherein said vertical member comprises a rod for receiving said end of a first beam of said plurality of beams and an end of a second beam of said plurality of beams.

38.(original) The method of claim 38, wherein said rod comprises ends that are tubular and dimensioned to mate with an end of said first beam and an end of said second beam, thereby joining said first beam and said second beam together.

39.(original) The method of claim 37 including the step of:
providing a cantilever beam and a hip beam as said second beam.

40.(original) The method of claim 38 including the step of:
providing a cantilever beam as said first beam and a hip beam as said second beam.

41.(currently amended) The method of claim 34 including the step of:
connecting at least one of said plurality of connector brackets ~~emprising~~ including a coupling for securing an end of said at least one cantilever beam to an end of said at least one hip beam, said at least one of said plurality of connector brackets causing said at least one of said hip beam and said at least one cantilever beam to be substantially coaxial and situated at an angle relative to said vertical support column to which said at least one of said plurality of connector bracket is mounted.

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42.(currently amended) The method of claim 37 including the step of:

connecting at least one of said plurality of connector brackets ~~comprising~~ including a coupling for securing an end of said at least one cantilever beam to an end of said at least one hip beam, said at least one of said plurality of connector brackets causing said at least one hip beam and said at least one cantilever beam to be substantially coaxial and situated at an angle relative to said vertical support column to which said at least one of said plurality of said plurality of connector brackets is mounted.

43.(original) The method of claim 38, wherein said first beam is a cantilever beam and said second beam is a hip beam.

44.(original) The method of claim 38, wherein said angle is about 22 degrees.

45.(currently amended) A canopy support system for use as a children's playground shade cover having a plurality of vertical support columns, said canopy support system comprising:

a plurality of connector brackets ~~for mounting that are each mounted on~~ said plurality of vertical support columns, respectively;

each of said plurality of connector brackets ~~comprises~~ includes:

a vertical member for mounting on one of said plurality of vertical support columns and an angled member for securing to at least one beam such that said beam is angled relative to the ground and relative to a horizontal plane, said beam being dimensioned so that when said shade cover is situated thereon, said shade cover extends beyond said playground to a considerable extent.

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46.(currently amended) The canopy support system of claim 45, wherein each of said plurality of connector brackets ~~comprises~~ includes a vertical member for mounting on one of said plurality of vertical support columns and an angled member for coupling a plurality of beams together such that said plurality of beams are situated at an angle relative to said plurality of said vertical support columns when said plurality of connector brackets are mounted on said plurality vertical support columns and said plurality of beams are mounted thereon.

47.(original) The canopy support system of claim 46, wherein said vertical member comprises a rod for receiving said ends.

48.(original) The canopy support system of claim 47, wherein said rod comprises ends that are tubular and are dimensioned to mate with and join two of said plurality of beams together.

49.(original) The canopy system of claim 48, wherein said plurality of beams comprises at least one cantilever beam and at least one hip beam;

at least one of said plurality of connectors brackets comprising a coupling for securing an end of said at least one cantilever beam to an end of said at least one hip beam, said at least one of said plurality of connector brackets causing said at least one hip beam and said at least one cantilever beam to be coaxial and situated at an angle relative to said vertical support column on which said at least one of said plurality of connector brackets is mounted.

50.(original) The canopy support system of claim 49, wherein said angle is about 22 degrees.